

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 /093 W
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R 011615Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7011
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION SINAI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PBOR, IS, US, XT

SUBJECT: BEGIN EXPRESSES HOPE FOR SUCCESSFUL VISIT; CASTIGATES
EUROPEAN NINE

1. IN A SPEECH LAST NIGHT BEFORE THE SIXTH ANNUAL
ASSEMBLY OF THE JEWISH AGENCY, PRIME MINISTER BEGIN
ACKNOWLEDGED PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATEMENT OF THAT DAY
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LOOKING FORWARD TO THEIR MEETING. BEGIN EXPRESSED
HIS DELIGHT IN THE PROSPECT OF MEETING THE PRESIDENT
AND HIS HOPE OF FINDING A COMMON BASIS OF UNDER-
STANDING. "WE WILL SPEAK CANDIDLY. IF THERE MAY
BE DIFFERENCES, NONE OF US WILL SUSPECT THE OTHER
OF ULTERIOR MOTIVES." HE ANTICIPATED A FRUITFUL
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS.

2. BEGIN'S INVECTIVE WAS RESERVED FOR THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY. REACTING TO ITS MIDDLE EAST DECLARATION "MORE IN SORROW THAN IN ANGER," HE NOTED THAT THE CONTINENT FROM "BREST TO BREST (LITOVSK)" WAS DRENCHED IN JEWISH BLOOD. HE SAID THAT HIS GENERATION HAD TAKEN AN OATH NEVER AGAIN TO PERMIT "A BLOODTHIRSTY ENEMY TO AISE HIS HAND AGAINST JEWISH WOMEN AND CHILDREN." SHOULD THE DECLARATION OF THE NINE COME TO FRUTION,EVERY ISRAELI WOMAN AND CHILD WOULD AGAIN BE THREATENED. SUCH JEOPARDY TO THE REMANT OF THE JEWISH PEOPLE "IN THE LAND OF THEIR FOREFATHERS" WILL NEVER BE COUNTENANCED.

3. EXCEPT FOR THESE REFERENCES TO FOREIGN AFFAIRS, THE SPEECH WAS ESSENTIALLY A PEP TALK TO THE JWISH AGENCY, POINTING WITH PRIDE TO THE DEMOCRATIC CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND TO THE ADMISSION OF THE 66 VIETNAMESE REFUGEES ("TO A COUNTRY ACCUSED OF RACISM"). BEGIN SOLICITED THE AGENCY'S HELP IN ELIMINATING POVERTY IN ISRAEL, WHILE HE PROMISED TO INSTRUCT ISRAEL'S YOUNGER GENERATION IN THE GREAT,MAGNANIMOUS EFFORTS OF JEWS ABROAD ON BEHALF OF ISRAEL.

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4. COMMENT: BEIN'S APPROACH TO HIS FORTHCOMING WASHINGTON VISIT HAS BEEN POSITIVE AND UPBEAT SINCE HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE ONELECTION NIGHT OF MEETING THE PRESIDENT. EXCEPT FOR THE IMPLICIT GENERAL RESTATEMENT OF BEGIN'S POSITION ON ARAB-ISRAELI ISSUES CONTAINED IN HIS CRITICISM OF THE EUROPEAN NINE DECLARATION, THE SPEECH MARKED NO CHANGE IN BEGIN'S RECENT POSTURE OF AVOIDING DEBATE WITH THE U.S. PRIOR TO HIS VISIT.
LEWIS

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